



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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COLLEGE STUDENTS VISITING SAN DIEGO DURING SPRING BREAK GET A WELCOME LETTER FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY ABOUT THE CITY'S NEW ALCOHOL-FREE BEACH LAW

San Diego, CA—Before college students arrive to party in San Diego during Spring Break, they'll be receiving a welcome letter from City Attorney Michael Aguirre informing them that San Diego City Beaches are now alcohol free. The law is in effect year-round, not just during Spring Break.

At the invitation of SafeBeaches.org, a coalition of residents who advocated for an alcohol-free beach policy, Aguirre agreed to write the letter. SafeBeaches.org will be sending out the letters to college campus newspapers and student body centers around Southern California and neighboring states.

"If they comply with the law, it shouldn't put a damper on their Spring Break," said City Attorney Aguirre. "We do expect to see a dramatic decrease in alcohol-related problems at the beach such as assaults, underage drinking, and public urination, which will improve the use of the beach for everybody."

Last November, the alcohol-free beach ordinance was passed by the San Diego City Council, which approved the policy for all city beaches, including Mission Bay Park and all coastal parks south of Tourmaline Surfing Park.

In the letter Aguirre also states, "that if you're ticketed for consuming alcohol on the beach, you can be fined up to \$250. Repeat offenders will get to know the City Attorney's Office even better, as we will seek higher fines and even possible jail time. And now you know how to keep the San Diego City Attorney's Office off your vacation itinerary."

Consumption of alcohol is not allowed on the beach, boardwalks, along the sea walls, or in parking lots adjacent to the beaches. The alcohol ban also covers all of Mission Bay Park, all the coastal parks south of Tourmaline Surfing Park, as well as the grassy areas adjacent to the sand in Mission Beach, Ocean Beach, and Pacific Beach.

To view the fact sheet and the new alcohol-free beach ordinance, visit www.sandiegocityattorney.org, and on the homepage, click "Alcohol Beach & Parks Ban." ###

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